by the State Governments and, for simultaneous elections, the expenses are shared on 50:50 basis between the Central and State Governments.

(d) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

Practise by relatives of High Court judges

1859. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the decision taken/proposed to be taken by Government with regards to remedial measures for effective functioning of judiciary in response to the report submitted by the Bar Council of India recently to the Ministry listing 131 out of 499 Judges in 21 High Courts of india, who are having their relatives practising in the same courts, which is in violation of rules and creates doubts in the public mind about the Judges' fairness;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) No report has been submitted by the Bar Council of India recently. They had provided High Court wise details earlier in regard to Judges whose relative(s) were practicing in High Courts.

2. Clauses 6 of the Bar Council of India Rules provides as follow:

> "6. An Advocate shall not enter appearance, act, plead or practice in any way before a Court, Tribunal or Authority mentioned in Section 30 of the Act, if the sole or any member thereof is related to the Advocate as father, grandfather, son, grand-son, uncle, brother, nephew, first cousin, husband, wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, niece, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-low, brother-in-law, daughter-in-law or sister-in-law.
>
> For the proposes of this rule, Court shall mean a Court, Bench or tribunal in which above mentioned relation of the Advocate is a Judge, Member or the Presiding Officer."

2.1 In terms of the Advocates Act 1961, powers for taking any disciplinary action against advocates vest in either the State Bar Council or the Bar Council of India.

2.2. The Bar Council of India did not indicate whether the Advocates, whose names had been given by them were appearing in contravention with the provisions of Clause 6 of the Bar Council of India Rules. They had also not given details whether any State Bar Council or the Bar Council of India had taken any action in term of Advocates Act, 1961 against any Advocate who was found appearing in the court in which his relation was sitting in judgement.

3. There is no rule/law whereby the Judges of the High Courts can be restrained by the Government from hearing the case in which their relations are appearing as advocates.

Result-oriented judicial system

1860. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering result-oriented speedy and inexpensive legal movement for the benefits of the weaker section of the society; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) Free legal services are extended to the weaker sections of the society such as, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, women, children handicapped, disabled workmen and persons in custody, under the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The free legal aid and advice and other services are provided to the aforesaid category of persons in respect of their cases right from Supreme Court to the *Munsif* Court. Lok Adalats are being organized by State Legal Services Authorities throughout the country. Lok Adalat institutions have been set up in all the States, Conciliation and Mediation Centres are being run by all the State Authorities for speedy disposal of the cases. Permanent Lok Adalats for settlement of cases pertaining to public utility services have also been set up in some States. These programmes are meant for strengthening inexpensive and result-oriented legal aid movement in the country.